

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is becoming more difficult to explain to my students that the US is a democracy when we continue to support non democratic practices. Sinclair is practicing a non democratic activity and I strongly suggest to all students and families we not participate by turning the TV off that night and read a book!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the few and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, through mandated national legislation. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.